

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01479 261317Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5212

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO NATO AND WHITE HOUSE
AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: NATO, MPOL

SUBJECT: TANK GUN

REF: STATE 020968

1. DURING A CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER EARLIER THIS MORNING, I REFERRED TO SECRETARY OF THE ARMY ALEXANDER'S LETTER (REFTEL) TO MINISTER LEBER REGARDING THE TANK GUN. I OUTLINED THE CONSULTATIONS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE OVER THE WEEKEND AND STRESSED THAT WE BELIEVED IT MOST IMPORTANT THAT THEY BE CONTINUED IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK. I POINTED OUT THAT A DECISION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS BY FEBRUARY 1 AND THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HAVE FURTHER DIRECT DISCUSSIONS ON THE EXPORT LICENSE ARRANGEMENTS. I CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING THE FOREIGN OFFICE COULD DO TO ENCOURAGE THE DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON FOR THESE URGENT TALKS.

2. GENSCHER WAS NON-COMMITTAL. HE EXPRESSED
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APPRECIATION FOR MY PRESENTATION AND SAID HE WOULD COMMUNICATE IT TO THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. HE APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE URGENCY OF THE MATTER PRIOR TO MY REMARKS.

3. I ALSO TELEPHONED STATE SECRETARY SCHULER IN CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE THIS MORNING AND WENT OVER WITH

HIM THE POINTS I HAD MADE TO GENSCHER. SCHULER SAID
HE APPRECIATED THE URGENCY AND IMPORTANCE OF THE
MATTER AND THAT HE WOULD SPEAK TO BOTH THE CHANCELLOR
AND LEBER AT ONCE ABOUT IT.
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